Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (canceled).

Claim 12 (currently amended). A method for providing a crypto key and an associated checkword of said crypto key to an encryption device for a telemeter system of a missile, said method comprising the method steps of:

(a) generating said crypto key and said associated checkword wherein a key loader generates said crypto key and said associated checkword;

(b) transferring said crypto key and said associated check word from said key loader to a microcontroller having a memory for a duplication and a storage of said crypto key and said associated check word within said memory;

(c) disabling a transmitter connected to said

microcontroller when the transfer of said crypto key and said associated check word to said microcontroller occurs to prevent a transmission of said crypto key and said associated check word by said transmitter;

(d) duplicating said crypto key and said associated check word within said ~~microcontroller~~ microcontroller to provide a duplicate of said crypto key and a duplicate of said associated check word;

(e) storing said crypto key, said associated check word, the duplicate of said crypto key and the duplicate of said associated check word in the memory of said ~~microcontroller~~ microcontroller;

(f) enabling said transmitter after the storage of said crypto key and said associated check word within the memory of said microcontroller;

(g) disabling said transmitter prior to a load of said crypto key and said associated check word into said encryption device;

(h) loading said crypto key and said associated check word from the memory of said microcontroller into said encryption device wherein said crypto key when loaded into said encryption device provides for encryption of telemetry

data transmitted to a ground station by the telemetry system of said missile;

(i) enabling said transmitter after the load of said crypto key and said associated check word into said encryption device; ~~and~~

(j) erasing said crypto key and said associated check word from the memory of said encryption device upon a launch of said missile to prevent an enemy force from retrieving said crypto key and said associated check word from the missile after the launch of said missile; and

(k) providing a computer software program executable by said microcontroller to perform the method steps of:

(i) transferring said crypto key and said associated checkword from said key loader to said microcontroller;

(ii) disabling said transmitter when the transfer of said crypto key and said associated check word to said microcontroller occurs;

(iii) duplicating said crypto key and said associated check word within said microcontroller;

(iv) storing said crypto key, said associated check word, the duplicate of said crypto key and the duplicate of said associated check word in the memory of said

microcontroller;

(v) loading said crypto key and said associated check word from the memory of said microcontroller into said encryption device;

(vi) enabling said transmitter after the load of said crypto key and said associated check word into said encryption device; and

(vii) erasing said crypto key and said associated check word from the memory of said encryption device upon a launch of said missile.

Claims 13 (currently amended). The method of claim 12 comprising the additional method step of loading the duplicate of said crypto key and the duplicate of said check word into said encryption device when said encryption device rejects said crypto key wherein said computer software program is executable by said microcontroller to perform the additional method step of loading the duplicate of said crypto key and the duplicate of said check word into said encryption device when said encryption device rejects said crypto key .

Claim 14 (currently amended). The method of claim 12 comprising the additional method step of indicating a status of a store of said crypto key and said associated check word into the memory of said microcontroller wherein said computer software program is executable by said microcontroller to perform the additional method step of indicating the status of the store of said crypto key and said associated check word into the memory of said microcontroller.

Claim 15 (currently amended). The method of claim 14 wherein ~~said~~ the status of the store of said crypto key and said associated check word into the memory of said microcontroller is indicated by a light emitting diode connected to said microcontroller.

Claim 16 (currently amended). The method of claim 12 comprising the additional method step of indicating a status of an erase of said crypto key and said associated check word from the memory of said microcontroller wherein said computer software program is executable by said microcontroller to perform the additional method step of indicating the status of the erase of

said crypto key and said associated check word from the memory of said microcontroller.

Claim 17 (currently amended). The method of claim 16 wherein ~~said~~ the status of the erase of said crypto key and said associated check word from the memory of said microcontroller is indicated by a light emitting diode connected to said microcontroller.

Claims 18-20 (canceled).